

### **CLEAN COPY OF PENDING CLAIMS**

1. (Amended) A connecting means adapted to releasably fix a first element and a second element, the connecting means comprising a locking means movable in a deformable channel by remote activation means between a locked position in which the first element is locked to the second element and an unlocked position in which the first element is released from the second element, wherein there is no permanent material connection between the connecting means and the remote activation means and wherein in the locked position the channel is substantially undeformed in the region of the locking means and the locking means prevents deformation of the channel in that region.
2. (Amended) The connecting means of claim 1, wherein the locking means is a locking pin, the channel has a base and deformable sides, and the locking pin is adapted to be moved within the channel by the remote activation means towards or away from the base.
4. (Amended) The connecting means of claim 2, wherein the locking pin, the sides of the channel and the base are of indefinite length.
5. The connecting means of claim 2, wherein there are two locking pins, each disposed in a channel with a base and deformable sides.
6. The connecting means of claim 4, wherein the connecting means is flexible.
7. The connecting means of claim 1, wherein the connecting means provides for adjustment of the first element relatively to the second element in one, two or three dimensions.
9. (Amended) The connecting means of claim 1, wherein the remote activation means is adapted to move the locking means by the use of energy selected from the group consisting of magnetic force, electromagnetic force, electromagnetic induction, high frequency heating and radio waves.
10. (Amended) The connecting means of claim 1, which further comprises signal means adapted to indicate whether the first element is locked to the second element.
11. (Amended) The connecting means of claim 1, which further comprises signal means adapted to indicate whether the first element is released from the second element.

12. (Amended) The connecting means of claim 1, which further comprises means for reporting damage or stress caused to the connecting means.

13. (Amended) The connecting means of claim 1, which further comprises encryption.

14. (Amended) A method of releasably fixing a first element and a second element via a connecting means, the method comprising the step of applying remote activation means to fix the first element to the second element, the connecting means comprising a locking means movable in a deformable channel by remote activation means to a locked position in which the first element is fixed to the second element, wherein the locking means is movable by the or another remote activation means to an unlocked position in which the first element is released from the second element, there being no permanent material connection between the remote activation means and the connecting means and wherein in the locked position the channel is substantially undeformed in the region of the locking means and the locking means prevents deformation of the channel in that region.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the first element is aligned with the second element before the remote activating means is applied to fix the first element to the second element.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein movement of the locking means to the locked position or to the unlocked position causes no mark on or damage to the first element or the second element.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the first element is fixed to more than one second element.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the second element is fixed to more than one first element.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein a plurality of first elements is fixed to a plurality of second elements.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the second elements are not identical.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the first elements are not identical.

40. The connecting means of claim 1, wherein the connecting means is capable of providing a report relating to one or more of the following:

- a) whether the first element is fixed to the second element;
- b) whether the first element is released from the second element;
- c) whether the connecting means has been damaged.

45. (New) The connecting means of claim 1, wherein the locking means is a locking pin and the channel is tubular.

46. (New) The connecting means of claim 2, wherein the channel has an external protrusion adapted to lock into a recess when in the locked position.

47. (New) The connecting means of claim 1, which is a clip, a bolt or a strip connector.

• 48. (New) The connecting means of claim 1, when attached to or inserted in the first or second element.

49. (New) A plurality of the connecting means of claim 1 when adapted to be fixed or released in a predetermined sequence.

50. (New) The connecting means of claim 1, wherein the locking means is adapted to move in a linear path between the locked position and the unlocked position.

51. (New) The connecting means of claim 1, wherein the first element and the second element form an assembly.

52. (New) The assembly of claim 51, wherein the first element is selected from the group consisting of a plug for a power cable, glass, perspex, an item of computer hardware, a telephone, an item of furniture, an electrical appliance, a bicycle, an item of photographic equipment, a burglar alarm, an automotive accessory, trim, an automobile, a casing for a black box recording device, a frame, a billboard, an item of footwear excluding a sole, a boot, a dispenser, a carpet, a rug, a part of an item of luggage, an item of cladding, an item of decoration, a medicine cabinet, a gate, a door, a coin-operated machine, a tooth brace, a denture, a false tooth, a part of a dog collar, a mobile phone, a tool, a computer, an item of street furniture, a building, and a pipe.

53. (New) The assembly of claim 51, wherein the second element is selected from the group consisting of a power socket, a backing board, a cable, a wall, a floor, a ceiling, an item of furniture, a saddle bag, a tripod, a lens, a lens cap, a casing for a burglar alarm, an automobile, an automobile door, a bonnet, a boot lid, an access panel for a black box, a sound proofing panel, a billboard support, a sole for footwear, a ski, an access panel for a dispenser, a part of an item of luggage, a building, a door for a medicine cabinet, a gate, a door jamb, an access door for a coin-operated machine, a tooth, a jaw, a part of a dog collar, a battery, an access card, a tool bit, a computer peripheral, a street, a door, a window, and a pipe.